Aus research team predicts Brazuca behaviour

SPORT DESK The Sports Aerodynamics Research Centre at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia headed by professor Aleksandar Subic and associate professor Firoz Alam, has revealed interest ing findings over the behaviour of the of the Brazuca ball, which is being used as the official matchball of the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Using the

RMIT Industrial Wind Tunnel, the research team found that Brazuca will behave substantially different from the Jabulani used in 2010 or the Teamgeist used in 2006 and the Fevernova used in 2002.

According to the findings of the research, Brazuca has less aerodynamic resistance at wind speeds from 20 to 120 km/hr except 50 to 70 km/hr range compared to the Jabulani. The Brazuca will travel much faster than Jabulani and Teamgeist at low speeds. However, at speeds over 50 km/hr, the Brazuca will travel faster than Jabulani and slower than Fevernova and

The study also revealed that the variation of drag coefficient (an indicator of aerodynamic efficiency, lower the coefficient, better the aerodynamic efficiency) between the two sides of Brazuca is around 2 to 3 per cent compared to Jabulani (9 per cent) and Teamgeist (5 per cent). The Brazuca's sideways behaviour looks more close to Fevernova. Hence, the Brazuca will have more predictable flight in calm wind conditions than its two predecessors

Jabulani and Teamgeist. The research also predicts that taking the average altitude of the 12 host cities (1000m above sea level), players can overshoot the ball during a long pass, free kick or long shot to the goal post unless the player understands the altitude effect.

the race for the next round.

JAPAN V GREECE

Japan and Greece face a high-stakes

Thursday after opening match defeats

which have left their participation in

With Japan outmuscled by Ivory

Whether Japan or Greece are

Colombia's showdown with the Ivory

will depend on the outcome of Yoshida.

Coast 2-1 and Greece thumped 3-0 by

the tournament hanging by a thread.

in Natal could well be terminal.

Coast earlier in the day.

Estadio das Dunas.

Moment of truth

World Cup shoot-out here on first against the Greeks.



Things may not be all smiles if England's Wayne Rooney (2nd from R) doesn't maintain team's discipline against Uruguay today.

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Uruguay v England

Fight or flight for heavyweights

Heavyweights England and Uruguay must resurrect their World Cup hopes or face the prospect of an early flight home when they collide in a crunch Group D fixture on

eft both countries in danger of elimination with little room for error in their last two pool games. Defeat in Sao Paulo would surely spell doom for

Opening defeats to Italy and Costa Rica respectively have

loss to Costa Rica. Both countries have question marks over their strikers with calls in British media to either drop talisman Wayne Rooney,

winners Uruguay, who were unimpressive in their 3-1

Keisuke Honda and Atsuto Uchida will have to stand up and deliver against Greece today if Japan are to remain in

crucial for the Blue Samurai to score in Recife.

after firing Japan ahead in the 16th to play."

either side in their Group C collision progressing to the knockout rounds trying too hard it destroyed us."

pointed but we still have two games to to our strengths.

Japan's English-based defender minute, insisted his team-mates had

"Of course we lost the first match said Honda. "Losing wasn't what was

so at the moment we're very disap- shocking, it was not being able to play

But Yoshida was adamant the Asian Japanese turned against us. We're a

defensively so if we get the first goal manager Alberto Zaccheroni.

"We've got it out of our system,"

"The best characteristics of the

Maya Yoshida believes it will be picked themselves up after the defeat

equalise during Saturday's 2-1 loss to Italy, in a subdued training session while other first-team regulars continued Saturday's game

either Roy Hodgson's new-look England or two-time

or move him from the left to his preferred central role

For Uruguay, Liverpool's Luis Suarez, this season's Premier League top-scorer with 31 goals, is set to make his World Cup and when he was spotted training with the

GPH) GPH ispat

display which had many critics questioning his place. The Manchester United forward, 28, is still to score at a return from keyhole surgery on his the meniscus in his left reserves on Monday, speculation rose that he had been Bryan Ruiz

Rooney set up England's goal but missed a chance to But the English FA said Rooney had requested an extra who was sent off for a foul on Campbell in the tail-end of

Rooney complained "sometimes (I) wonder what the press are getting at" on his Facebook page, while Frank Lampard hit out at the obsession with his teammate. "A fixation with one player can become, rather than a

debate, a bit of an agenda," he said. "So I do think we need to drop the agenda and look at the team, whoever plays." The whirlwind surrounding Rooney has dominated the build-up for youthful England, who won praise for their bold approach against Italy, exemplified by Raheem

However, defensive fragility could return to haunt them with problems down the left, while centre-half Gary Cahill was out-jumped by Mario Balotelli when heading the we wanted but the only thing

Uruguay have their own worries at the back after their defence was repeatedly rattled by Costa Rican strikers Joel Campbell, who is on Arsenal's books, and PSV Eindhoven's

They will also be missing Benfica defender Maxi Pereira,

better: Scolari

Brazil getting

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said that the World Cup hosts had reason to be satisfied with their performance despite being held to a 0-0 Group A draw by Mexico in Fortaleza on

The Selecao struggled to break down the Mexican backline at the Castelao Stadium, and when they did they came undone against inspired goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, who made three stunning saves, two to deny Neymar and one from a late Thiago Silva header.

But Scolari was bullish in front of the press, emphasising that Brazil remain on course to qualify for the last 16, with the Mexico draw following their opening 3-1 win against Croatia in Sao Paulo.

"In my opinion -- it's my own, not that of the critics the team played better than they did against Croatia," he said. "There was at least an extra 10 percent than what there

was against Croatia. "The team has evolved We can still improve, but we can still qualify for the next round. We showed quality, so I am satisfied."

Cameroon and Croatia meet in another Group A game in Manaus on Wednesday, but regardless of what happens in that encounter, Brazil know a win against Cameroon in Brasilia on June 23 will secure their place in the knockout phase.

Brazilians are mad enough to believe that the others are not playing for anything. Mexico played more or less the same game as us. They had just about the same amount of possession, and the same

number of shots on goal. "The result wasn't what missing for us was a goal."

The most encouraging aspect of the performance for Brazil came at the back, where captain Silva was more like his usual commanding self alongside

BRAZILIAN BAURU

SINGER

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By SINGER

ECSTATIC BELGIUM FAN DIES

The 41-year-old climbed atop the monu-

"It was an accident, he wasn't pushed,"

Russian President Vladimir Putin will jet to

Belgium's 2-1 winning start in Group H.

Brussels prosecutor's office.

North Korea has released a

set of postage stamps to

mark the World Cup in

Brazil, state media reported

Wednesday, reflecting the

high popularity of the sport

in the reclusive state.

Agency (KCNA).

Brazil full-back Marcelo has insisted the referee denied his team a penalty kick in the 0-0 draw with Mexico in Salvador.

Marcelo cries

foul over

penalty

The left-back burst forward into the box late in the second half and looked set to open up a clear chance for his side when he went down amidst a tangle with Raul Jimenez, but despite protests from the players and fans, the offi-N KOREA RELEASES WC STAMPS cials remained unmoved. Marcelo is sure that

contact was made, and told iournalists after the contest: "When I controlled the ball, he grabbed my shoulder. And if he pulled me inside the box, it was a

The sheet of postage stamps and three single "He pulled me. If he commemorative stamps hadn't done that, I carry images of football would've taken the ball. I players variously clasping would've made it to the the World Cup trophy, ball and crossed it to one holding a football and of my team mates." dribbling, according to Teammate Bernard Pyongyang's official believes that the most Korean Central News important aspect of the

"A stamp with a picture of (a) kicking Brazil did not lose the "What we made very clear in the dressing room on the stamps. PUTIN TO ATTEND WORLD CUP

Colombia on Saturday, defeat for giants had not given up hope of diligent side and when we started was that the most important thing was not the for only the third time in their history. But not everyone has been convictory," he said. "It was to "Greece lost as well. They have vinced. Former captain Hidetoshi heading for the exit on Thursday night good defenders and tactics," said Nakata, now a pundit commentating avoid a defeat. on the World Cup for public broadqualify as top in the group. "They have a good orientation caster NHK, questioned the tactics of We know the draw was a But what is not in doubt is that they have to come forward so we will "We must think about what kind

opponent."

evening was the fact that

finals, with Russia gearing up to host the neither Japan nor Greece has much have a chance to take more initiative." of game we want to produce because teams had opportunities. margin for error in Thursday's 7:00 Keisuke Honda, who faded badly so far I've yet to figure out what kind Whoever scored first would pm (2200 GMT) kick-off at the in the second half against the Ivorians of game Zaccheroni wants the team cause complications for the

responsibility for the tournament to the Kremlin strongman, Izvestiya daily reported, citing an unnamed government source. A Belgium supporter celebrating the team's hard-won World Cup victory over Algeria PELE GLUED TO RADIO

fell to his death after toppling off a statue in Pele was glued to the radio as heavy traffic in downtown Brussels, officials said Sao Paulo meant the Brazil legend missed the first half of his country's goalless draw Tuesday with Mexico.

"I suffered a lot -- I listened to the first ment as home crowds went wild after half in the car. There was so much traffic, the "He fell heavily after losing his balance car just wasn't moving," said Pele, 73, who while waving the Belgian flag," said Ine Van was driving from Santos to Sao Paulo, a Wymeersch, a spokeswoman for the megacity of 20 million. "It was the second time I heard a Brazil

World Cup match on the radio ... in 1950 and today," Pele told Globo television after the game in Fortaleza.

He insisted that "the team did not play badly -- they just didn't

> "We know there are no easy games. God willing we shall get to the final," he added, urging the populace to keep "thinking

GERMAN WIN OUT OF THIS WORLD Germany's opening World

Cup victory was out of this AFP, Zagreb world for astronaut Alexander Gerst, who kept Croatia star striker Mario an eve on his team's 4-0 Mandzukic is eager to face win over Portugal while Cameroon on Wednesday orbiting the earth. after he had to miss the "Between 10 hours (of) scientific experi-World Cup opener against football player was centered in the sheet ments yesterday, 20 mins of World Cup Brazil through suspension,

carrying a football and the World Cup," KCNA football. Congratulations to the German team," the Baden-Wuerttemberg-born Gerst It did not say which players were pictured tweeted from the International Space The European Space Agency's geophysicist is on a 166-day deployment, but managed to catch some of Monday's match

"If we lost, we might not Brazil next month to take part in a handover from Salvador on his laptop -- 400 ceremony at the end of the World Cup kilometres (248 miles) up. Thomas Mueller scored a hat-trick, while next championship, a newspaper report Mats Hummels also headed a goal as Cristiano Ronaldo-led Portugal were

Putin will attend an event following the July routed, but despite his team's win, Gerst Mandzukic told reporters, 12 final in Rio de Janeiro where his Brazilian stayed diplomatic. counterpart Dilma Rousseff will pass on "Kudos and all the best to the World Cup

Buffon back COLOMBIA V IVORY COAST

in training Afp, Mangaratiba Battle of perennial in World Cup training on Tuesday but Italy would not say whether or not he will be fit to face Costa Rica Under Cup training on Under Chile Cup training on Tuesday but Italy would not say whether or not he will be fit to face Costa Rica

Gianluigi Buffon was back

The 36-year-old Juventus

shot-stopper seemed to be

coach Cesare Prandelli may

back until the final Group

D clash with Uruguay on

June 24, to give the 2006

World Cup winner more

of Saturday's 2-1 win over

England due to an ankle

Germain's Salvatore Sirigu

Centre-back Andrea

Barzagli and midfielder

Daniele De Rossi, both of

whom sat out Monday's

Full-back Mattia De

Sciglio, who was ruled out

of the England match due

to a muscle problem, also

training, were back in

action on Tuesday.

trained Tuesday.

AFP, Mangaratiba

fifth world title.

After being at the centre of contro-

versy at the 2006 and 2010 World

Cups, Daniele De Rossi now wants

to be at the heart of Italy's push for a

The tough-tackling midfielder,

known as DDR by the media, was red

carded in 2006 for a crunching

challenge on America's Brian

floor to earn a dubious penalty

against New Zealand four years later.

the 30-year-old, who has spent his

entire senior career at Roma, admits

he fears what Brazil 2014 might have

said ahead of Friday's second Group

Mandzukic

Cameroon

local media reported.

"It is every player's

dream to play at a world

tournament. I'm eager to

play, eager to prove myself

together with my team," he

"I hope that my first

quoted by state-run HINA

will be marked with a

positive outcome,"

news agency.

appearance at a World Cup

eager to face

"Superstitious? A little bit," he

Playing in his third World Cup,

McBride and fell theatrically to the match

sprain, with Paris Saint-

sticks.

Buffon had to pull out

time to fully recover.

training normally, diving

on the ball, but Azzurri

yet decide to hold him

Few teams have flattered to deceive over the years as much as Colombia and Ivory Coast who meet for the first time on Thursday in a battle of perennial World Cup underachievers.

Colombia have been exasperating their followers ever since 1993 when a stunning 5-0 World Cup qualifying win away to Argentina was announced as heralding a golden era which never materialised. Ivory Coast have been blessed with home

a golden generation which, for all its failed to deliver the expected riches qualify at all for the following three Falcao. filling the void between the and has become a regular visitor to last tournaments when they replaced their Ivory Coast played most of the chance saloon in the last three years.

> finally giving supporters hope that this they hosted in 2001. time they can deliver on their exciting Ivory Coast's 2-1 win over Japan has Drogba was among the substitutes time, kicked off with a 3-0 win over

Greece, their biggest-ever win at a World Cup and one of their most convincing performances.

Colombia, now led by former

been falling short of expectations. among the favourites and were quarter-finals in 2013. expected to expect the tournament Both teams are stronger going

tion followed by the shocking murder the tournament. of defender Andres Escobar in

the last sixteen for the first time

to get past the group stage at the 2006 the talismanic former Chelsea striker and 2010 World Cups and has seen a as an impact player coming off the For more than 20 years since their series of frustrating exits in the African bench.

these years, the only time I have without the noise of the 'tifosi' went on to win the title."

champions Uruguay in their first armband worn so long by Francesco ment.

going to change De Rossi who say, I come to a press conference." he said.

"Even at my club, I am not very Italy's minimum prospects in Brazil. it I will continue."

And the legacy continues.....

2006. Now I want to make sure that said.

Having defeated England 2-1 in concentration."

playing 24 hours earlier in Sao from Twitter and Facebook.

we qualify for the second round."

THE WORLD

CUP SELFIE

CONTEST

The Hally Star

(more)

THE

FAN

ttps://www.facebook.com/selfiecontest2014

They reached the final in 2012 only Argentina coach Jose Pekerman, have to lose to Zambia on penalties and, in what was regarded as absolutely their They arrived at the 1994 World Cup final chance, lost to Nigeria in the

alight with their slick, passing football. forward than at the back and the match But their campaign ended in failure looks set to continue the run of open, and tragedy, with first round elimina- entertaining games which have lit up Colombia have a wealth of attack-

Medellin shortly after they returned ing riches, led by midfielder James Rodriguez and Juan Cuadrado on the Colombia were again eliminated in wing, so much so that they have made undoubted talent, has repeatedly the first round in 1998 and failed to light of the absence of injured Radamel

open attacking style with an exces- second half against Japan with a four-Both teams, however, have started sively defensively one. They did, pronged frontline to overcome their the tournament with impressive wins, however, win the Copa America which frailties as they came from behind to

given hope that they can finally get to for the match and, after his second-half entrance helped inspire the Ivory Led by Didier Drogba, now 36, their Coast comeback, coach Sabri current generation of players has failed Lamouchi may again prefer to employ

Will Ivory Coast

striker Didier

Drogba (L) be i

the starting

eleven today

following his

inspirational

performance

a second-half

against Columbia

against Japan as

#Persieing trend

Robin van Persie's magnifi-

cent leap to meet Daley Blind's pinpoint pass and send it looping over Iker Casillas and into the net in Netherlands' 5-1 win over Spain has become the iconic goal of the World Cup so far.

"I thought it was a great

grandson score such an D match against Costa Rica in enthusiastic about open training "To do that would make me look impeccable goal and insists sessions. It's great for the children mediocre. In Germany in 2006, we it was a very difficult thing

their opener, Italy will face Costa Regarded at Roma as "Capitano But he has no thoughts of an are planned and intended," Rica who stunned Copa America Futuro", the heir to captain's impending international retire- he said.

"Robin only needed a With England and Uruguay social media, keeping his distance media) will be the first to know. I the jump. To get such an communicating is his opinion on and as long as I am capable of doing it is not a movement that

KEY STATS

Colombia's 3-0 win over Greece was their biggest at a World Cup finals

Colombia coach Jose Pekerman has yet to lose a match in normal time at the World Cup.

Pekerman was in charge of Argentina in 2006 vhen they were beaten on penalties by Germany in the quarter-finals, having not previously lost a

Ivory Coast forward

Didier Drogba and Colombia defender Mario Yepes are set for a battle of the veterans. Drogba is 36 and Yepes 38.

Colombia are taking part for the World Cup for the fifth time and have progressed to the last sixteen once. Ivory Coast are

beyond the group stage. Both teams have won their respective continer tal championships once. Colombia were South American champions in 2001 and Ivory Coast won the African Nations

taking part for the third

time are have never gone

Grandpa joins

Cup in 1992.

The emphatic swan dive has developed into an internet sensation, becoming the subject of thousands of vines, videos and internet memes in the last few days as #Persieing trends worldwide.

And now the striker's 93-year-old grandfather, Wim Ras, has joined in on the craze, with his own Van Persie impression.

De Rossi wants it quiet landing," Ras told Omroep

"Especially of a red card. After all who come to see us but I do better were not the favourites and yet we to pull off. been sent off playing for Italy was in (fans), without you journalists," he If Italy make the quarterfinals -- always fun, huh? I used to and De Rossi steers clear of the cards do gymnastics and I know "I prefer silence for my work, for -- he will make his 100th appear- what it is like, but in gnymnastic those moves

Totti, De Rossi is also not a fan of "When I reach that time, you (the fraction of a second to make still feel able to play at the interna- exquisite delivery in such a Paulo, Italy's mission will be a lot "I am not against Twitter and tional level, I still feel young, still situation and then to score, Facebook, but I prefer to use private strong and still have plenty of that is a hell of an achieve-Not that World Cup success is means. When I have something to confidence in my physical ability," ment. The attack went well, but getting up there was very prefers to keep his business as low Another matter he is not keen on "I love playing for the 'Nazionale' difficult. Obviously, because

you do every day."



INFO ZONE

HEAD-TO-HEAD **IVORY COAST**

THEY HAVE NEVER FACED EACH OTHER

60

CAPS GOALS SCORED WC GOALS

TEAM FORMATION 4-2-3-1

4: Zuinga, Yepes, Zapata, Armero 4: Cuadrado, Aquilar, B: Gervinho, Yaya Toure, Kalou Guarin, James

2: Bacca, Martinez

ENGLAND

LAST MEETING: ENGLAND 2-1 URUGUAY

(1 MARCH 2006, INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY)

KEY PLAYERS STEVEN GERRARD



CAPS GOALS SCORED

WC GOALS TEAM FORMATION

4-2-3-1 4: Johnson, Cahill,

4: Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, Caceres Jagielka, Baines 4: Stuani, Lodeiro, 2: Henderson, Gerrard Rios, Rodriguez 3: Lallana, Rooney, Welbeck 2: Cavani, Suarez

GREECE

1: Sturridge

LAST MEETING: GREECE 0-1 JAPAN (19 JUNE 2005, CONFEDERATIONS CUP)

KEY PLAYERS



CAPS WC GOALS

TEAM FORMATION 4-2-3-1

Kawashime 4: Uchida, Konno, Yoshida, Nagamoto

5: Salpingidis, Tziolis, Karagounis, Maniatis, Samaras 1: Mitroglou

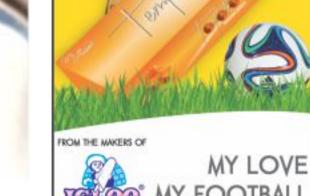
Karnezis





4: Torosidis, Manolas, Sokratis, Holebas











MI AMORE

OGETHERNES!



2: Endo, Hasebe 3: Honda. Kagawa, Kakitami 1: Okazaki





KEY PLAYERS SERGE AURIER

4: Aurier, Kolo Toure,

Bamba, Boka

2: Zakora, Tiote

1: Drogba